

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W  
-----081589 060727Z /13

R 060625Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8508  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG 9840  
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10155

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, TBIO, JA, CH  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRC EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO U.S. RESIDENCE;  
US/JAPAN/PRC MEDICAL COOPERATION

1. EMBASSY SCIENCE COUNSELOR HOSTED LUNCHEON AT HIS RESIDENCE ON JUNE 5 IN HONOR OF DR. EDWARD DAVID, PRESIDENT OF EXXON RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING CO. AND PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. GUEST LIST INCLUDED SCIENCE COUNSELORS FROM SELECTED NUMBER OF OTHER EMBASSIES IN TOKYO (FRANCE, UK, AUSTRALIA, DENMARK, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, USSR). IN ADDITION, CHEN KANG, COUNSELOR OF PRC EMBASSY WHO HANDLES S&T MATTERS, ATTENDED AFTER ASKING THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO BRING AN INTERPRETER AND INSURING THAT NO ONE FROM TAIWAN WOULD BE PRESENT. HE DID NOT INQUIRE ABOUT PRESENCE OF USSR OFFICIAL.

2. CHEN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY WU MING-LIEN, THIRD SECRETARY, WHO IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND ACTED AS INTERPRETER. CHEN MIXED FREELY WITH ALL GUESTS AND STAYED THROUGH ENTIRE PERIOD OF LUNCHEON. HE CONVERSED IN JAPANESE WITH JAPANESE GUESTS, INCLUDING DIET MEMBER WATARU HIRAIZUMI AND  
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DR. SABURO OKITA, PRESIDENT OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN SCIENCE COUNSELORS PRESENT, CHEN HAD NEVER BEEN TO PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF ANY OF THEIR MISSIONS AND EVENT WAS CONSIDERED EXTRAORDINARY IN THEIR OPINION.

3. EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC MINISTER-COUNSELOR AND POLITICAL

COUNSELOR MET CHEN FOR FIRST TIME AND WERE ABLE TO CARRY ON LIGHT CONVERSATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, CHEN REMARKED THAT HIS WIFE HAD REMAINED IN CHINA BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH. HE SAID HE WAS NOT REALLY A SCIENTIST, AND HAD SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN JAPAN IN THE TRADE LIAISON OFFICE.

4. SCICOUNS AND OTHER FOREIGN SCIENCE COUNSELORS ENGAGED CHEN IN NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS. AUSTRALIAN SCICOUNS WAS HEARD TO ASK CHEN FOR COOPERATION IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON ERADICATION OF FLIES IN CHINA WHICH COULD BE APPLIED TO FLY INFESTATION IN AUSTRALIA. PHILIPPINES SCICOUNS BLUNTLY INVITED CHEN TO PARTICIPATE IN REGULAR GET-TOGETHERS OF FOREIGN EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICERS, POINTING OUT THAT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AMONG COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT RESTRICT CONTACTS AMONG THOSE ENGAGED IN TECHNICAL MATTERS. CHEN DID NOT FULLY AGREE, SAYING THAT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ALWAYS HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT HE HAD MANY OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES IN HIS EMBASSY WHICH LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME HE COULD SPEND ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN HUMOROUS FASHION THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR COOPERATION IN PING-PONG AND IN THE GAME OF "GO".

5. BY AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN AND JAPANESE CANCER RESEARCH SPECIALISTS WHO HAD BEEN MEETING IN TOKYO PREVIOUS WEEK, SCICOUNS TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF LUNCHEON TO TALK TO CHEN  
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PRIVATELY ABOUT ENLISTING COOPERATION OF PRC IN STUDY OF UNUSUAL INCIDENCE OF ESOPHOGEAL CANCER IN TOWN OF LIN HSIEN. FOLLOWING INFO GIVEN TO CHEN: ACCORDING TO DR. ROBERT MILLER OF NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, NIH, AND DR. TAKASHI SUGIMURA, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL CANCER CENTER RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN TOKYO, WHAT CONSTITUTES EPIDEMIC OF THIS RARE FORM OF CANCER IN CHINESE TOWN MAY BE DUE TO CONSUMPTION OF VARIETY OF PICKLES MADE THERE. IT IS NOT CONSIDERED COINCIDENTAL THAT CHICKENS RAISED IN AREA SUFFER FROM TUMORS OF GULLET; CHICKENS ARE FED TABLE SCRAPS INCLUDING PICKLES. WHEN DR. MILLER VISITED CHINA AS PART OF U.S. CANCER SPECIALIST GROUP, HE DISCUSSED UNUSUAL SITUATION WITH DR. LI PING IN PEKING AND WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN SMALL SAMPLE OF PICKLES. SAMPLE WAS TESTED BY DR. SUGIMURA IN TOKYO BY WELL-KNOWN AMES TEST FOR CARCINOGENICITY AND PICKLES WERE FOUND TO BE STRONGLY CARCINOGENIC. IN COMPARISON, JAPANESE PICKLES WERE SHOWN TO BE ONLY WEAKLY CARCINOGENIC. DR. SUGIMURA HAS ABILITY TO CHEMICALLY CONCENTRATE AND SEPARATE THE SUSPECTED CARCINOGEN BUT REQUIRES TWO KILOGRAMS OF PICKLES FOR THIS PURPOSE. CHEN WAS ASKED TO SEE IF HE COULD ARRANGE TO OBTAIN PICKLES FOR DELIVERY TO DR. SUGIMURA THROUGH ANY CONVENIENT CHANNEL-

PRC, JAPAN, OR U.S. HE AGREED TO LOOK INTO MATTER AND TO  
REPORT BACK ON HIS FINDINGS.

6. DEPT. (OES/ENP/EN) IS REQUESTED TO INFORM DR. MILLER  
AT NCI THAT CONTACT WITH PRC OFFICIAL HAS BEEN MADE AND THAT  
USLO PEKING HAS BEEN INFORMED. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PINR, TBIO, JA, CH, (CHEN KANG), (WU MING-LIEN)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014